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LETTER  
OF  
BOARD OF TRADE AND EXCHANGE OF PENSACOLA, FLA.

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6-1926







*Pensacola*  
LETTER OF BOARD OF TRADE AND EXCHANGE OF  
PENSACOLA, FLA.

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BOARD OF TRADE AND EXCHANGE,  
*Pensacola, Fla., August 15, 1889.*

DEAR SIR: We have duly received your circular letter dated June 17, 1889, inclosing copy of act of Congress approved May 24, 1888, authorizing the President of the United States to arrange a conference between the United States of America and the Republics of Mexico, Central and South America, Hayti, San Domingo, and the Empire of Brazil.

And we note your desire that the several boards of trade in our country may furnish all the information and suggestions as may occur to them upon the consideration of the subjects referred to.

As the Board of Trade and Exchange of our city feel an earnest interest in the gravity of the questions that will arise at the conference to be held in next October, we do not hesitate to reply to the request stated in your communication. And we do this the more readily as our deep-water port, situated on the Gulf of Mexico, has a direct interest in the results of the conference in question.

We find on careful examination of the report of the Commission appointed under the act of Congress approved July 7, 1884:

To ascertain and report upon the best modes of securing more intimate international and commercial relations between the United States and the several countries of Central and South America.

In this report we find a weight of evidence that demonstrates the importance to our country of the trade of South and Central American nations; and the report also points out the reasons why we do not have the trade, and suggests means to secure same.

The valuable and instructive report of the Commission can not be too highly studied in the consideration of the subjects



to come before the coming conference, and, as a board of trade, we fully concur in and can not improve on the force of the facts stated in their able report.

What we want is direct and regular steam communication with the countries of South America and islands south of our country ;

Simplification and modification of customs regulations with these countries ;

A system of banking connections and a common standard of value.

It is needless to point to the volume of imports into these countries, amounting to many millions of dollars, and of which we only send about 10 per cent. ; and even of this we transport part to European ports to be forwarded in their ships to final destination.

Our consular reports tell us that the countries whose representatives we are to meet at Washington in October are by the policy of their Governments decidedly favorable to us, looking up to our Government as a model ; and that the people prefer our goods to other nations, and are only prevented from being our customers by the obstacles offered by want of communication and the absence of the facilities which European nations eagerly extend to them.

The conclusions we arrive at from the arguments of the Commission referred to, and the reports of our consuls and the public documents of the Governments of South and Central America, are that we must pursue an American policy, have American ships, and look to the trade of these countries as legitimately belonging to the American continent.

L. M. MERRITT,

*President Board of Trade and Exchange.*

THOS. C. WATSON,

*Secretary.*

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,

*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*







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